

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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Mayor Healy & City Council to Celebrate the 62nd Anniversary of India's Independence

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy, the Municipal Council and the Division of Cultural Affairs will proudly celebrate the **62nd Anniversary of India's Independence** during the **Indian Flag Raising** and the **Indo-American Parade and Festival**.

The two day event begins with a **Flag Raising** at **3 p.m.** on **Friday, August 14, 2009** at **City Hall**. The **Indo American Parade and Festival** will begin at **12 p.m.** on **Saturday, August 15, 2009** at **Kennedy Boulevard** and **Newark Avenue** and will proceed to **Leonard Gordon Park** located on **Kennedy Boulevard** and **Manhattan Avenue**.

The festival, part of the city's "Tapestry of Nations" Ethnic Festival Series will consist of traditional Indian music and dance.

"Jersey City is without a doubt the most ethnically diverse community in the state," said **Mayor Healy**. "What better way to showcase this diversity of cultures than offer programs and activities focusing on the traditions and heritages brought here from the native lands of our newer residents."

India's Independence Day is celebrated on August 15 to commemorate its independence from British rule and its birth as a sovereign nation on that day in 1947. It involved a wide spectrum of Indian political organizations, philosophies, and rebellions between 1857 and India's emergence as a unified nation-state.

This anniversary observance reaffirms the dedication of the Indian people all around the world to the highest ideals of democracy and freedom. It is a celebration that recognizes the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi whose philosophy of non-violence was used in very creative ways, including Gandhi's famous march to the sea to make salt. This march was a precursor to the civil rights marches in the United States. India's independence was achieved and pledged to the principles of fairness, dignity, peace and democracy.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.///